

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 11, and 12 have been cancelled.

Claims 2, 4, 7, 13, 16, and 19-21 have been amended.

Claims 22-24 have been added.

5        Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, and 13-24 are pending.

**Allowable Subject Matter:**

In the July 18, 2006 Office Action, Claims 4-10 and 13-19 were identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

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With this amendment:

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore in condition for allowance.

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Dependent Claim 2 has been amended to depend from Claim 4 and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 21 has been amended to depend from Claim 4 and is therefore in condition for allowance.

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Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore in condition for allowance.

New dependent Claim 22 depends from Claim 7 and is therefore in condition for allowance. Note that the limitation recited in Claim 22 is based on that recited in allowable Claim 2. Hence, no new matter has been introduced and no further search is needed.

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New dependent Claim 23 depends from Claim 7 and is therefore in condition for allowance. Note that the limitation recited in Claim 23 is based on

that recited in allowable Claim 21. Hence, no new matter has been introduced and no further search is needed.

5     Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore in condition for allowance.

10     Dependent Claims 19 and 20 have each been amended to depend from Claim 13 and are each therefore in condition for allowance.

15     New dependent Claim 24 depends from Claim 16 and is therefore in condition for allowance. Note that the limitation recited in Claim 24 is based on that recited in allowable Claim 20. Hence, no new matter has been introduced and no further search is needed.

Consequently, all of the pending claims are clearly allowable over the cited art and in a ready condition for prompt allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

20     Dated: October 17, 2006

/Thomas A. Jolly/  
Thomas A. Jolly  
Reg. No. 39,241  
(541) 715-7331